

REMARKS

Claims 3, 13 and 16 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Accordingly, claims 1-17 remain pending in this application.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority. Submitted herewith is a certified copy of the corresponding Japanese patent application (JP 2000-325255, filed October 25, 2000), upon which is based priority for the present application. An indication that this document has been safely received would be appreciated.

Claim Objections

Claims 3 and 13 have been amended to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner in Section 3 of the Office Action by amending these claims in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimura (U.S. Patent No. 6,147,826). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Independent claims 13 and 16 include the feature that the PLO_SYNC and the data are recorded consecutively to each other. The present invention has no

SYNC bite pattern, and there is no other pattern present between PLO_SYNC and the data. Thus, in the present invention, the format efficiency is improved. (See, e.g., page 6, line 14, through page 7, line 7 of the specification of the present application.) On the other hand, Hashimura, has at least two SYNC bite patterns, SB1 and SB2, for data synchronization at the front and rear of the sector, and TR and SB1 are recorded between the PLO_SYNC and the DATA. (See, e.g., TR, SB1 and SB2 of FIG. 3C and FIG. 10A.) Accordingly, Hashimura does not teach that PLO_SYNC and data are recorded consecutively to each other as in the present invention. Thus, the rejection of claims 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is traversed. Further, claims 14-15 and 17 are allowable at least because they depend from allowable base claims.

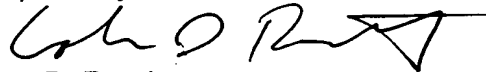
Request for Interview

Applicants' undersigned attorney will contact the Examiner to request an interview to discuss the claim amendments and to attempt to place the case into better condition for allowance or appeal.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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